

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9, 19, 20, 21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 17, 18 and 24-36 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to non-elected groups and are accordingly canceled herein. All cancellations and amendments are made without prejudice. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 through 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An earth moving or ground leveling apparatus comprising:
a frame having opposing sides;
a cutting blade attached to the frame between the opposing sides;
at least two ground engaging wheels supporting the frame;
a bucket having a floor and a pair of side walls;
an apron for holding soil in the bucket, the apron disposed perpendicular to the pair of sidewalls and disposed across the front of the bucket;
a hydraulic system for imparting movement to the bucket and the apron comprising:
a first valve interconnected in the hydraulic system for controlling movement of the bucket and the apron; and
a second valve interconnected in the hydraulic system for preventing movement of the bucket or the apron such that the bucket can be locked in a desired position regardless of a height of the cutting blade.

10. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first valve comprises a sequence valve for sequentially moving the bucket and the apron to one of a soil scraping, retaining or expelling position where the bucket

is actuated only after the apron is fully moved.

11. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 9, wherein the second valve is configured to be activated independently from the hydraulic system.

12. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 9, further comprising an electronic control means for activating the second valve.

13. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 9, wherein the bucket can be locked in a position and the apron can be independently actuated to control the amount of soil entering or leaving the bucket.

14. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 9, wherein the hydraulic system further comprises:
a first hydraulic cylinder for moving the bucket;
a second hydraulic cylinder for moving the apron;
at least one first supply line operatively connecting the first valve to the first hydraulic cylinder; and
at least one second supply line operatively connecting the first valve to the second hydraulic cylinder.

15. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second valve is operatively connected to the at least one first supply line or the at least one second supply line.

16. (Original) The earth moving or ground leveling apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
a tongue attached to the frame and configured for attachment of the earth moving or

ground leveling apparatus to a tractor, wherein the electronic control means is associated with the tractor.

Claims 17 and 18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method according to claim 16, wherein the~~ for controlling movement of a bucket and an apron of an earth moving apparatus, the method comprising:
providing the earth moving apparatus comprising the bucket for storing soil, the apron for holding the soil in the bucket, and a cutting blade for cutting soil to be stored in the bucket;
providing a hydraulic system comprising a first hydraulic cylinder for moving the bucket, a second hydraulic cylinder for moving the apron and a first valve comprises comprising a sequence valve for controlling the movement of the bucket and the apron;
activating the hydraulic system to initiate movement of the bucket and the apron; and
impeding the movement of the bucket or the apron with a second valve, such that the bucket can be locked in a desired position regardless of a height of the cutting blade.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 19, wherein impeding the movement of the bucket or the apron comprises activating an electronic means.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 19, wherein activation of the hydraulic system causes the bucket and the apron to move in sequence.

22. The method according to claim 19, wherein the impeded movement of the bucket or the apron does not affect the movement of the unimpeded bucket or apron.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 19, wherein impeding the movement of the bucket or the apron comprises interrupting a flow of hydraulic fluid to the first hydraulic cylinder or the second hydraulic cylinder.

Claims 24 through 36. (Canceled).